

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 00752 171311Z

63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-14 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /110 W

----- 130986

R 171008Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0871

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS SAIGON 00752

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR CH TS VS

SUBJECT: GVN/PRC DISPUTE OVER PARACEL ISLANDS

FOLLOWING IS OFFICAL TEXT OF GVN FOREGIN MINISTRY DECLARATION READ BY FM VUONG VAN BAC EVENING OF JANUARY 16. BEGIN TEXT. ON JANUARY 11TH, 1974, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF COMMUNIST CHINA SUDDENLY AND FALSELY CLAIMED THEIR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S ARCHIPELAGOS OF PARACELS AND SPRATLEY. IMMEDIATELY ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM REJECTED THIS UNFOUNDED CLAIM.

2. DESPITE OF THIS, IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE COMMUNIST CHINESE AUTHORITIES NOT ONLY REFUSED TO WITHDRAW THEIR UNREASONABLE CLAIM, BUT EVEN OPENLY VIOLATED THE TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM BY SENDING THEIR NATIONALS AND BOATS INTO THE TERRITORIAL WATERS SURROUNDING THE ISLANDS OF CAM TUYEN (ROBERT), QUANG HOA (DUNCAN) AND DUY MONG (DRUMMOND) WHICH ARE PARTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S PARACELS ARCHIPELAGO. THESE PEOPLE EVEN LANDED ON THE ABOVE ISLANDS, SET UP HUTS AND DISPLAYED COMMUNIST CHINESE FLAGS, IN BLATANT VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 00752 171311Z

3. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARE INDIGNANT IN THE FACE OF THESE GROSS VIOLATIONS WHICH THEY ARE DETERMINED NOT TO TOLERATE.

4. THE FACT THAT THE PARACELS AND SPRATLEY ARCHIPELAGOS ARE INDIVISIBLE PARTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S TERRITORY IS EVIDENT AND UNDENIABLE AND IS BASED ON GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL GROUNDS AS WELL AS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW.

5. INDEED, FROM THE GEOGRAPHICAL POINT OF VIEW, THE PARACELS AND SPRATLEY ARCHIPELAGOS ARE MUCH CLOSER TO THE SHORES OF THE CENTRAL PART OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM THAN TO THE SHORES OF THE CHINESE HAINAM ISLAND.

6. FROM THE HISTORICAL POINT OF VIEW, VIETNAM WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP THE PARACELS ARCHIPELAGO. ACCORDING TO THE HISTORICAL RECORDS KNOWN AS DAI NAM NHAT THONG CHI, EMPEROR GIA LING 1802 ESTABLISHED THE HOANG SA COMPANY TO CONTROL AND EXPLOIT THAT GROUP OF ISLANDS. IN 1834 UNDER EMPEROR MINH MANG, THE HOANG SA ISLANDS WERE RECORDED FOR THE FIRST TIME OVER IN MASP PUBLISHED BY THE COURT OF HUE, IN THE GEOGRAPHIC MONOGRAPHY KNOWN AS HOANG VIET DIA DU.

7. DURING THE FRENCH COLONIAL PERIOD, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDOCHINA BY MEANS OF DECREE NO 156/SC OF JUNE 15, 1932, ESTABLISHED THE HOANG SA AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF THUA THIEN. THIS WAS EVENTUALLY CONFIRMED BY EMPEROR BAO DAI'S ORDINANCE NO 10 OF MARCH 30, 1938.

8. ON MAY 5, 1939, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDOCHINA AGAIN DELINEATED THE ADMINISTRATIVE LIMITS OF THE HOANG SA GROUP, UNDER WHAT WAS KNOWN AS THE "DELEGATION ADMINISTRATIVE DU CROISSANT ET DEPENDANCES", AND OF THE TRUONG SA GROUP, UNDER WHAT WAS KNOWN AS THE "DELEGATION ADMINISTRATIVE DE L'AMPHITRITE ET DEPENDANCES".

9. UNDER VIETNAM'S FIRST REPUBLIC, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ON JULY 13, 1961 ISSUED DECREE NO 174-NK MAKING THE HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO A PART OF THE PROVINCE OF QUANG NAM, INSTEAD OF THUA THIEN PROVINCE, AND ESTABLISHING THE VILLAGE OF DINH HAI AS PART OF THE DISTRICT OF HOA VANG.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 00752 171311Z

10. UNDER VIETNAM'S SECOND REPUBLIC, THE VILLAGE OF DINH HAI WAS MERGED WITH THE VILLAGE OF HOA LONG, OF THE SAME DISTRICT OF HOA VANG (PROVINCE OF QUANG NAM), BY VIRTUE OF DECREE NO 079-BNV/HC OF OCTOBER 21, 1969 BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

11. ALL THOSE ACTS TO ASSERT AND EXERCISE VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THOSE ISLANDS WERE NOT CHALLENGED BY ANY

COUNTRY, INCLUDING COMMUNIST CHINA.

12. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE HEAD OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION TO THE 1951 SAN FRANCISCO PEACE CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1951 DECLARED THAT VIETNAM RECOVERED HER SOVEREIGNTY OVER THOSE ARCHIPELAGOS, AFTER JAPAN HAD SURRENDERED TERRITORIES IT OCCUPIED BY FORCE OF ARMS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. NONE AMONG THE 51 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THAT CONFERENCE RAISED ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REAFFIRMATION OF SOVEREIGNTY BY VIETNAM.

13. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF REALITIES, VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATIONED TROOPS AND EXERCISED ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OVER THOSE ARCHIPELAGOS, AND THE VIETNAMESE NAVY REGULARLY PATROLS AND SUPERVISES NAVIGATIONAL SECURITY IN THE AREA.

4. IN VIEW OF ALL THE PRECISE FACTS LISTED ABOVE, THE SUDDEN CHALLENGE BY COMMUNIST CHINA OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE PARACELS ARCHIPELAGO AND ITS VIOLATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S SOVEREIGNTY ARE UNACCEPTABLE. THEY CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THIS REGION.

15. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO THIS END. END TEXT.

MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, ISLAND CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SAIGON00752  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740135/aaaabgll.tel  
**Line Count:** 143  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 FEB 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2002 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GVN/PRC DISPUTE OVER PARACEL ISLANDS FOLLOWING IS OFFICAL TEXT OF GVN FOREGIN MINISTRY DECLARATION READ  
**TAGS:** PBOR, CH, TS, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005